

Collaborative Partners:

- Alaska Turning Point Project
- Colorado Turning Point Project
- Nebraska Turning Point Project
- Oregon Turning Point Project
- Wisconsin Turning Point Project
- National Governors' Association
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- National Indian Health Board
- American Public Health Association
- Association of State & Territorial Health Officials
- National Association of City & County Health Officials
- National Association of Local Boards of Health
- Institute of Medicine
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration

Consultants:

- Lawrence O. Gostin, JD, LLD (Hon.) and James G. Hodge Jr., JD, LLM, of the Center for Law and the Public's Health at Johns Hopkins and Georgetown University Law Center
- Myra Munson, JD, Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller and Munson

AK Public Health Improvement Process
Division of Public Health
PO Box 110618
Juneau, AK 99811-0618

Turning Point

Public Health Statute Modernization
National Collaborative

A project to
develop a model
state public health law

"...the Nation's public health infrastructure would be strengthened if jurisdictions had a model law and could use it regularly for improvements."

Healthy People 2010

Why do we need to modernize public health law?

Law has always played an important role in the protection and promotion of the public's health. The Institute of Medicine, in its 1988 report on the future of public health, found that "State public health laws are in many cases seriously outdated." The Institute expressed concern that inadequate or outdated laws could hamper a public health agency's ability to carry out its health promotion and protection mission, and recommended that states review their public health statutes and make revisions necessary to 1) clearly delineate the basic authority and responsibility of public health agencies, and 2) support a set of modern disease control measures that address contemporary health problems and incorporate due process safeguards.

The new chapter on Public Health Infrastructure in *Healthy People 2010* includes an objective related to statutory review and revision, and asserts "the Nation's public health infrastructure would be strengthened if jurisdictions had a model law and could use it regularly for improvements."

"Statutes...are pivotal tools for creating conditions for people to lead healthier and safer lives."

Gostin, JAMA, June 2000

What is the Collaborative?

The Turning Point Public Health Statute Modernization National Collaborative is a partnership of state and local public health entities, national organizations, and federal agencies working together to develop a model state public health law. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation sponsors the Collaborative under the national Turning Point Initiative. Five states were funded by the Foundation to support this project: Alaska (lead state), Colorado, Nebraska, Oregon, and Wisconsin.

The mission of the Collaborative is "to transform and strengthen the legal framework for the public health system through a collaborative process to develop a model public health law." The model law is intended to provide state health agencies with a tool for assessment of current law and guidance of law improvement efforts.

What is the project timeline?

Phase I

Assessment

June 1, 2000 - May 31, 2001

Phase II

Model Law Development

June 1, 2001 - August 31, 2003

Phase III

Dissemination of Model Act

September 1, 2003 - March 31, 2004

Where can I find more information on the Collaborative?

Please visit the Collaborative's web site at:

www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/aphip/collaborative.htm

or the

Turning Point Program web site at:
www.turningpointprogram.org